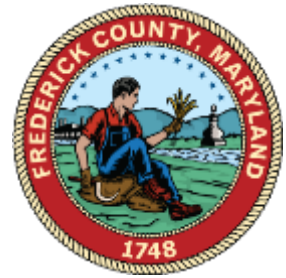




Frederick County Sustainability Commission
Meeting Minutes for
10/19/16



FCSC Attendees: Tom Anderson, Jennifer Bird, Annie Jones, Ron Kaltenbaugh, Joe Richardson, Mike Swanson, Tim Jones, John Ferri, Liz Peterson, Rachel Armistead, Kevin Sellner

OSER: Shannon Moore

Public: Suzanne Cliber

I. Welcome and Introductions

- A. The Chair (Annie Jones) welcomed all FCSC members and guests with introductions of all.

II. Vice Chair Items

- A. Approval of September minutes.

1. Approval of September Minutes with minor edits. Motion to approve by Elizabeth Peterson, and seconded by Tim Jones, approved by all.

- B. Review Action Items

1. Letter to County Council from FCSC regarding solar arrays on agricultural land.

- a. Letter summarizes the resolution, and then outlines concerns by FCSC.
- b. FCSC agrees that additional renewable energy and conservation of agricultural land are important and compatible.

- c. Discussion items

- Elizabeth – Item g, Option 2, should we add suggestions regarding the enhanced vegetative screening requirement? We do include the note that this should be consistent with regulations regarding agricultural use. Right to Farm legislation allows farmers to perform agricultural operations to their borders. Link the screening to the fencing? We suggest setback and visual screening be based on the factors relevant to each proposal and conform with existing screening laws.

- Shannon, how many acres needed vs available. Approximately 9,100 to 15,000 acres of solar are needed in order to meet 100% of energy needs in Frederick Co. There are 427,000 acres available in Frederick Co.

- Minor wording changes were suggested throughout the letter.
- Solar gives farmers an option other than development of their land.
- Submit to County Council by October 31, 2016.

III. Presentation on School Indicators

A. Potential Education Indicators

1. Miles driven by school buses (current indicator)
 - Has fluctuated over the years.
 - Are the changes in those miles due to more students? Or longer bus routes?
 - Many students are driven by parents, this indicator may not tell us much any longer.
2. School portables (current indicator)
3. Graduation Rates
4. Green Schools
 - Need ground up and top down support.
5. Higher Education
6. Continue to collect ideas for indicators of Sustainability of our Education System

IV. Fall Sustainability Commission Public Meeting

A. Ideas and Discussion

- Agenda has been developed and is being finalized.
- Resources are to be provided to schools to help them understand what they can do to be certified and provide outdoor education opportunities.
- We have advertised through various newsletters, Frederick News Post, email lists, and Facebook. We are distributing posters.
- Nine people are officially signed up.
- Need setup and breakdown volunteers, arrive at 12:30.
- Asking for donations for snacks and drinks.

V. OSER and Livable Frederick Update

- A. Livable Frederick – draft vision has been posted and the County is asking for feedback
- B. The County is working with a consultant to put together scenarios for the future
- C. What are our trends, and where are we going to end up?
 - Water quality health in Frederick County in relation to TMDL goals
 - N, P, Sediment loads are going down, most reductions are due to upgrades to WW treatment, etc.. What can we do next?
 - Macroinvertebrate populations, declining over time
 - Clean energy
 - Forest cover, appears to have reduced significantly
 - Waste diversion
 - Ground level ozone, improving
 - Vehicle miles traveled
 - Greenhouse gas emissions, declining due to utilities switching from coal to natural gas, closing of Alcoa
 - Electricity consumption vs clean energy generation
- These indicators will help us develop goals.
- Kevin is working with Tim Goodfellow in Planning regarding GIS mapping that will allow the County to look at stream topography and areas to target best management practices based on topography and soil type.
- Kevin asked the State what indicators they use to assess stream health to determine if the county might have the information to use in its own assessments. Some of the parameters estimated by the state for health metrics are benthos, fish, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, etc.
- Looking for trends of improving conditions as well as hot spots that influence the river.
- Suggest County use TMDL load requirements to regulate future development, may be able to help us meet load reduction goals.
- At the recent WIPIII meeting convened by MDE and MDA in Williamsport, Kevin invited the County SCD and state MDA representative to talk to FCSC in January to address goals and implementation for best management practices on agricultural land.
- D. OSER Received letter from MDE commending the County for providing funding to meet adequate stormwater improvements to comply with the permit.

VI. Commission Members Items of Interest

- Mike – Tiny House CTC students to present to FCSC in December. Mike will ask Zoning staff to attend as well.
- Kevin – Lake Linganore is loaded with cyanobacteria that produce toxins. He has notified City Water. The City can filter the bacteria but must implement the correct practices to remove the toxins, which may be continuously operational already. The City pumps water from depths with much lower concentrations of the algae, thereby minimizing likely delivery of cells and toxin to the city's drinking water facility. A second item is the dedication of the restored Culler Lake, a potential effective stormwater retention pond for the city. The lake is fed by Carroll Creek. If a valve was installed to close that intake during a storm, the lake could process and denitrify stormflow nitrogen from the neighborhood much more efficiently, yielding substantially more nitrogen removal towards meeting the city's TMDL.
- John – Attended Healthy Communities lecture at Hood. Very thought provoking. Based on People Habitat, 25 Ways to Think about Greener, Healthier Cities.
- Tom – Learned in research project that forests are highly effective at filtering stormwater. Participating in tree planting in Thurmont to replace Ash Trees. Saturday Nov 5 from 12 to 1:30.
- Tim – Baker Park Culler Lake improvements are beautiful.
- Ron - Frederick City, Middletown, and Thurmont are certified Sustainable Communities. Ron attended the MD Solar Congress in Annapolis. As part of Exelon merger, more communication is required, enhancing the grid, etc.. Next week, Wed the 26th, kickoff of solar co-op at main library. Sustainable MD holding indicator workshop in Hagerstown in November. Zero Waste Class will be held on Wed, Nov 9, Ron and Joe to attend.

VII. Public Comments

- None

Action Items:

8-18-16. Choose water quality/watershed indicators to help develop sustainability goals.

7-20-16. Councilman Donald asked FCSC to provide recommendations on Solar Farms by Sept/Oct.

7-20-16. FCSC will ask the County Executive about what she sees as our role in the Solid Waste initiative.

7-20-16. Three subworkgroups are needed and need volunteers: EPP, the Fall Event, and Solid Waste.

5-1-16. Sustainability Event in the fall. This would be a free meeting open to the public. It needs to be well planned three months in advance for October. Rachel will be on the work group with Tom. A theme, date, and location have been chosen. Planning efforts continue.

10-10-15. FCSC committees: Invite community volunteers to join.

10-8-15.County Green Teams: Ron has assembled a comprehensive list that includes municipalities with teams and contact information shown.

Adjournment: Following a motion, which was seconded and unanimously approved, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm.